

THE TEMPLE AT THE UPPER ACROPOLIS : PERGAMUM , TURKEY



1	13-Feb	prep*Sabbath 1	Psalm 2	The Kingdom of the Messiah
2	14-Feb	prep*Sunday	Psalm 16	The Victory of the Messiah
3	15-Feb	prep*Monday	Psalm 22	The Suffering of the Messiah
4	16-Feb	Shrove Tuesday	Psalm 130	The Hope of the Messiah
5	17-Feb	<b>ASH WED</b>	<b>a day side aside for reflection      a Holy Day</b>	
6	18-Feb	Thursday	verse one / BLAMELESS: setting up the chess match	
7	19-Feb	Friday	THE HEALTH AND WEALTH GOSPEL	

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	The Kingdom of the MESSIAH!	Psalm 2	DAY
	<b>GOD, (before the 'World' was created) ... had a plan!</b>		<b>1</b>
	<b>GOD</b> wanted to live with us!	Ps 78 / Mt 13: 35	Feb 13th, 2010
	<b>GOD</b> wanted to live among us!	Is 40: 21 - 31	<b>Sabbath 1</b>
	<b>GOD</b> wanted to live through us!	Gal 2: 20 Heb 4: 3	in*preparation
			a day for fasting and prayer
	<b>Psalm 1</b> begins with talking about a "godly" person.		
	<i>One who delights in the law of the LORD,</i>		Psalm 1: 2
	<i>and meditates on GOD's law day and night.</i>		2 Tim 2:19
	<i>For THE LORD knows the way of the righteous!</i>		Psalm 1: 6
	<b>THEN.....</b> the drastic switch in <b>Psalm 2</b>		
	<i>Why do the nations rage and plot a vain thing?</i>		Psalm 2: 1
	<i>THE LORD, who sits in the heavens will laugh!</i>		Psalm 2: 4
	You can listen to these verses in Handel's Messiah #37 to #39		
	In the <b>Book of Job</b> (Iyov) the very first chapter sets out for us a <b>godly</b> person and before the 2nd chapter starts, the adversary is already in a rage, that a human made from dust, would choose to worship <b>GOD</b> , instead of curse <b>HIM</b> to <b>his FACE!</b>		
	<b>OUR BLESSING</b> we learn satan can not see around a corner, nor the future.		
	<b>Job</b> (Iyov) and <b>GOD</b> are best of friends, so called...hiking buddies.		Job 29: 2 & 3
	Job claims they spend a lot of time together.		
	<b>Psalm 2</b> sets the stage for a high stake game of chess.		
	in our next 40 days we will follow each move, to the check*mate!		
<b>Illustration</b>	Allow Ruth and myself to spend a few weeks with you in the Book of Job (Iyov)		
	Each day there will be a short devotional and then an illustration,.. sometimes personal,		
	and other times, biblical. We hope these draw you closer to <b>JESUS</b> .		
	Please accept that it is difficult to write <b>the name of the most high</b> in black letters.		
	In my first reading through the whole BIBLE, I skipped to the last chapter of JOB after I had read the first two, and never bothered to read the rest. In my second reading, I skimmed the chapters where the friends spoke but never bothered to understand them, since <b>GOD</b> had declared them wrong! Reading garbage is simply a waste of time, I thought!		
	In Dec. 1985 flying home from Hong Kong, I finished reading through the Bible, and patted myself on the back so to speak, when <b>GOD</b> nudged to me about the Book of Job, as one book I had not "read". Feeling convicted, I spent the rest of the 14 hour flight, reading the friends of JOB (Iyov). The reading was done as a duty, with no joy. As I finished, I felt it was a wasted time, but I had obeyed!		
	In 1999, when our son of 26 drowned in a swimming accident, I turned to <b>JOB</b> and devoured each page. Suddenly I yearned to understand the text, but "GRIEF" ate me alive. I studied the text thru my tears!		
	Fortunately, our son is in <b>HEAVEN</b> , and now I can praise <b>HIS SAVIOUR</b> for tucking him in,		
	but the road to saying <b>"Blessed be the name of the LORD"</b> was not easy!		Job 1: 21
	a song for <b>HIKING</b> buddies...		
	"and <b>HE</b> walks with me and <b>HE</b> talks with me, and <b>HE</b> tells me I am <b>HIS OWN</b> , and the joys we share....."		

THE LORD

BLESS YOU

KEEP YOU

THE LORD

MAKE HIS FACE  
TO SHINE  
UPON YOU

+ BE GRACIOUS  
UNTIL YOU

THE LORD

LIFT HIS  
COUNTENANCE  
UPON YOU

+ GIVE YOU  
PEACE  
AMEN

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	The Victory of the MESSIAH	Psalm 16	DAY
<b>GOD</b> is in <b>TOTAL CONTROL</b> of the plan!			<b>2</b>
it's not just us in <b>HIS INTIMATE CONTROL</b> , but the whole vast universe!			Feb 14th, 2010
so from the foundation of the earth <b>GOD</b> had a plan of VICTORY			Sunday
and JOHN 3: 16 - 18 describes it so well			in*preparation
Resurrection Sunday is coming!			
<i>For YOU, will not leave my soul in Hell, nor will you allow your HOLY ONE to see corruption.</i>			Psalm 16:10
Handel's MESSIAH soprano aria #32			
<i>YOU will show me the path of life!</i>			Psalm 16:11
<i>In YOUR PRESENCE is fullness of joy, and at your RIGHT HAND are pleasures forevermore.</i>			
<i>YOU, O LORD, are the portion of my inheritance and my cup, YOU maintain my lot!</i>			Psalm 16:4
The 2nd coming of <b>THE KING OF KINGS</b> is also imminent!			
and our adversary goes to HELL!			
<i>"Surely, I AM, coming quickly!"</i>			
<i>AMEN!</i>			Rev 22: 20
<i>Even so, come LORD JESUS!</i>			
<b>Illustration</b> What a similarity: McDonald's & Beth She'an			
We were touring Israel. Our guide was our rabbi.		Tour: followtherabbi.com	
We had visited the 3 villages where <b>JESUS</b> had spent 75% of his time, discussed the concept of Jewish community "Insola", accountability and the synagogue life style. Bethsaida, Capernaum, Korazin on the shores of the sea of Galilee. As a group we marked the evening by singing songs of faith, while looking over the sea. We had become community, and we shared testimonies of our faith in <b>CHRIST, our SAVIOUR.</b> Community: Felt like the mennonite villages of southern Manitoba, where everyone helps each other. I grew up in a village, and everyone cared for the next family.			
Then our rabbi took us over the hill on the west side of the sea, and it hit me.			
Below us stood the vast ancient ruins of a roman city Beth She'an.			
Huge theatre, expansive shopping arcade, opulant baths, library, race track, marble and more marble!			
then to my left was a Mcdonald's restaurant.			
Huge Asphalt parking lot for tour buses, bright yellow neon sign...			
"We do it all for you"!			
<b>2000 years..... yet some things never change</b>			
Negro spiritual: <b>He's</b> got the whole world in <b>HIS HAND.</b>			

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	<b>The Suffering of the MESSIAH</b>	Psalm 22	DAY <b>3</b> Feb 15th, 2010 Monday in*preparation			
<p><b>GOD is with us, in our suffering!</b> and ....suffering gets us to call on <b>THE LORD</b>, also... allows others to see the goodness of <b>THE LORD!</b></p>						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Ps 73: 21 - 28</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Ps 107: 6/13/19</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Ps 40: 3</td> </tr> </table>			Ps 73: 21 - 28	Ps 107: 6/13/19	Ps 40: 3	
Ps 73: 21 - 28	Ps 107: 6/13/19	Ps 40: 3				
<p>Psalm 22 is unique. You find encoded within the 31 verses, the seven last words of <b>CHRIST</b>, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in their gospels.</p>						
1	<i>My GOD, MY GOD, why have YOU forsaken ME?</i>	a quotation of verse 1	Ps 22: 1			
2	<i>Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.</i>	my interpolation	Ps 22: 3 - 8			
3	<i>Women behold your son</i>	my interpolation	Ps 22: 9/10			
4	<i>I thirst!</i>	my interpolation	Ps 22: 14/15			
5	<i>Into YOUR HANDS, I commend MY SPIRIT</i>	my interpolation	Ps 22: 21			
6	<i>Today, you will be with ME in paradise.</i>	my interpolation	Ps 22: 26			
7	<i>It is finished!</i>	a quotation of verse 31	Ps 22: 31			
<p>In the "fullness of time" <b>GOD sent HIS SON... to redeem!</b> The crucifixion brought us redemption because of the shed blood! We are no longer slaves and an heir of <b>GOD</b>, through <b>CHRIST</b></p>			Gal 4: 4 / 5  Gal 4: 7			
<p><b>Grieving:</b> provides you a gift! You get to spend a lot of time talking to <b>GOD!</b> <b>Suffering:</b> brings understanding of the terms "<b>grace</b>" and "<b>mercy</b>"!</p>						
Illustration	<b>The drums of Advent!</b>					
<p>I heard the drums below, then I remembered.</p>						
<p>Standing on the upper Acropolis in Pergamum (today it is Bergama, Turkey), we heard the sounds of a large mobilization of troops. This is modern day Turkey (2007). The marching of the troops, in step. The commanders shout for attention! Then stomp, stomp, stomp!</p>						
<p>then I remembered</p>		<p>Pergamum, the "CITY" where satan's throne is!</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Rev 2:13</td> </tr> </table>	Rev 2:13		
Rev 2:13						
<p>Domitianus, the Roman Emperor had come to this acropolis in the year 90 AD, for the ribbon cutting of the new health clinic. He had donated a vast sum. As was his custom, he also had many christians crucified along the road to show his authority. He was <b>KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS!</b> 10,000 troops in front, then his hand carried sofa, and 10,000 troops behind. Can you hear the sound of the feet?</p>						
<p>Imagine the Mayor of the City, in all pomp and color awaiting the arrival. Would he be executed for the emporer's pleasure, given a new posting, or honoured?</p>						
<p>Imagine all the peasants along the way who had all their cattle confiscated as food for the army. All the women who were rounded up for the armies pleasure. The extra taxes on the business community to pay for the festival.</p>						
<p>WHAT AN EVENT TO REMEMBER This is called "The Advent of the Emperor". Domitianus made more than 60 advents in his reign, 81 - 96 AD.</p>						
<p>I am awaiting the next "ADVENT" but for the real <b>KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS!</b> It will be the sound of the trumpet!</p>			<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1 Thess 4: 16</td> </tr> </table>	1 Thess 4: 16		
1 Thess 4: 16						
<p>songs by Paul Baloche or Third Day both called: Offering</p>						

Devotional	<b>The hope /redemption in our MESSIAH</b>	Psalm 130	DAY <b>4</b>
<b>GOD has a future home for us! ....We will live with HIM!</b>			Feb 16th, 2010
<i>My soul waits for the LORD,</i> <i>more than those who watch for the morning</i>			Tuesday in*preparation
<i>I say,</i> <i>more than those who watch for the morning</i>			
<i>and with HIM</i> <i>is abundant REDEMPTION!</i>			Psalm 130
<i>But CHRIST as a SON, over HIS own house, whose house we are,</i> <i>if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope, firm to the end.</i>			Heb 3: 6
<b>HEAVEN</b> <i>For here on earth we have no continuing city, but we seek the city to come</i> <i>then I saw the new city coming down from HEAVEN.</i>			Heb 13: 14 Rev 21 : 2
Illustration	forty years on George Street (Sydney, Australia ) <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkjMvPhLm8">Extreme Evangelism - the man from George Street</a> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkjMvPhLm8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkjMvPhLm8</a>		
For forty years Frank Jenner, asked people who passed by him on George Street a simple question, and then gave them a tract. <b>Excuse me Sir: If you should die tonight, are you going to Heaven?</b>			
For forty years he had not heard of any results until a pastor from London came to visit him, two weeks before he went to glory.			
Type in the words Extreme Evangelism on u tube and then scroll down to the man from George Street.			
<b>The video will change your perspective on witnessing!</b>			
<b>The Parable of the "witnessing, not monetary" Talents</b> In the parable of the Talents, the fruit of each individual to whom <b>GOD</b> gave <b>his</b> precious talents, was their ability to witness to others of <b>GOD's LOVE</b> and the fruit came when people accepted this personal hope. The one who buried his " <b>GOD-given</b> " talent, chose not to witness of <b>GOD's</b> grace in his life. so he was thrown into outer darkness.			
	You have been given <b>TALENTS</b> , how are you using them as a witness.		
	song by Taiz'e: Kyre eleison 19 from the album Venite Eultemus		

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	<b>A day set aside for reflection on GOD's "Faithfulness"!</b>	DAY <b>5</b>
	<b>GOD 'always' has your interests at heart!</b>	Feb 17th, 2010
	<b>GOD</b> loves you!	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
	<b>GOD</b> knows you!	a "whole(y)" day for fasting and prayer
	<b>GOD</b> cares for you!	
	Job ( Iyov ) and <b>GOD</b> are best of friends. satan is very envious, and has been scouting out how he might destroy this "human" being, described as the greatest in the east! I believe <b>GOD</b> has been fully aware of how the fox has been trying to get into the hen house.	Job 1: 3
	<i>Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil (satan) walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour!</i>	1 Peter 5:8
	<b>GOD</b> takes the initiative on behalf of his friend Iyov, by inviting his adversary, the fox, to a meeting. satan admits he has been casing the hen house, but complains that there is a force-field, a shield of armour which he can not penetrate.	2 Kings 6:17
	That <b>GOD</b> would allow satan to penetrate this shield of defense is incomprehensible to us, but <b>GOD</b> has Iyov's interest at heart.	Eph 6:11
	As we walk through these 40 days to Resurrection Sunday, allow us to challenge your faith in an incredible <b>CREATOR</b> , while exploring the fantastic story of Job from the Tanakh (Old Testament ).	
	<b>GOD</b> is always worthy of our PRAISE!	Psalm 143
Illustration	<b>Strawberries</b>	
	We were desperate for cash flow. There was very little and what we might get was already ear-marked for all the bills that were stacking up. You've been there.	
	Ruth began to cry, as the realization hit her, there would be no fresh strawberries this year. Any cash we had, would be used for necessities, not luxuries like fresh picked strawberries.	
	So She asked, whether we could put strawberries on our prayer list. so among all our other prayer requests, we added strawberries.	
	Within a few hours, Louise called to ask if she could come over for coffee. She brought three ice-cream buckets full of fresh strawberries. We had told no one except <b>the good LORD</b> , of our intimate request. Ruth spent the afternoon, cleaning and preparing the strawberries for the freezer, and of course, served strawberries for dessert after our evening meal!	
	On Friday afternoon, two couples asked if they could come over for coffee. As they came off the 2nd narrows bridge to the North Shore, a market gardner, had his wares up for sale. They bought two flats of fresh strawberries. After our guests left, we spent the rest of the evening, cleaning and slicing strawberries for the freezer.	
	Now, whenever we have concerns, we just say "strawberries", for we know <b>GOD</b> hears and <b>GOD</b> cares for us.	
	We also know, if we pray for someone's salvation, <b>GOD</b> is all ears!	
	song by Brian Doerksen: Your Name is Holy? Album "Hungry" by Vineyard Music	

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	<b>Blameless: the helpless pawn is moved to start the match!</b>	DAY <b>6</b> Feb 18th, 2010
<b>GOD knows and understands your situation!</b>		
<b>All the world is a stage and men and women merely players!</b>		Thursday
quote from Shakespeare's "As you like it!"		
Job ( Iyov ) is not aware that his adversary satan has been 'scouting out', how he might destroy him.		Job 1: 7 & 10
<b>GOD</b> declares that his friend Iyov, " <b>is</b> " <b>HIS SERVANT</b> .		
<b>GOD</b> declares that Iyov obeys and listens to <b>HIS VOICE!</b>		
<b>GOD</b> declares that Iyov is upright and blameless! ( impossible we say, way off our map! )		
The product of dust obeys, unlike the most beautiful of created beings, who does not!		
The product of dust has a deep admiration for his <b>CREATOR</b> , unlike satan!		
The product of dust makes WORSHIP of his <b>CREATOR</b> a priority, unlike satan!		Job 1: 5
and so the "CHESS MATCH" begins		
satan believes the created blob of earthy dust is no match for a heavenly created being!		
however in round one there is one rule		
<i>All that Job (Iyob) has is in your power, only do not lay a hand on his person.</i>		Job 1:12
The destruction is like a tsunami.		
<b>WOW</b>	Every earthly possession, except for his wife, wiped out!	
<i>In all this Job (Iyob) did not sin nor did he charge <b>GOD</b> with wrong!</i>		Job 1:22
<b>Illustration</b>	Psalm 139: in your book they are all written, the days fashioned for me!	
Ron, one of our church elders, was telling me the news.		
Though I heard with my ears and knew it was truth, my heart said NO!		
Nathan, our 26 year old son had drowned. Impossible! He was a deep sea diver! A great swimmer!		
It had only been Wednesday when we had talked about the verse, so I grabbed my Bible to see if the verse was still there.		
<i>in <b>YOUR BOOK</b>, they were all written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.</i>		Psalm 139 : 16
Nathan, had been working on a movie studio set, building a false 4 storey front, out of flimsy material, when the forklift which was lifting material to the top of the 4th level, tipped forward, placing the driver in a very perilous position. Nathan had jumped up, an instantly was on the roof to stabilize the load. His boss had been extremely angry with him, for Nathan had put himself into a very dangerous position.		
Dad, I just told him, my time was not up, and when <b>GOD</b> determined that my days were up then they would be up, just like it says in your Bible, DAD! We discussed the verse at length, and then he said, Dad, the Bible is very clear on this topic, so let's talk about something else.		
That had been Wednesday, now it was Sunday night.		
	How things change in a few short days: "Like the turning of ones hand! ( a low german saying")	
The verse had been for me!		
	song by Fernando Ortega: Give me <b>JESUS!</b>	

THE OF THE **SPRIT** IS UPON ME

THE OF THE **SPRIT** HAS ANNOINTED ME

TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR  
THE OF THE **SPRIT** HAS SENT ME

- TO HEAL
- TO PREACH
- TO ANNOUNCE
- TO SET LIBERTY
- TO PREACH
- THE BROKENHEARTED  
TO COMFORT ALL WHO MOURN  
TO CONSOLE ALL WHO WEEP
- DELIVERANCE TO THE CAPTIVE  
TO GIVE BEAUTY FOR ASHES  
TO GIVE "OIL OF JOY" FOR MOURNING
- RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND  
TO GIVE THE GARMENT OF PRAISE  
FOR THE "SPIRIT OF HEAVENESS"
- THE OPPRESSED  
ISAIAH 61:1-3  
LUKE 4:
- THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD

THAT **HE** MAY BE **GLORIFIED**

Meditations during LENT

2010

Week 1

Devotional	The health and wealth gospel	DAY <b>7</b> Feb 20th, 2010
Naked, I came from my mother's womb, and naked, I shall return		Friday
<p style="padding-left: 40px;">the <b>LORD</b> gave!</p> <p>and the <b>LORD</b> has taken away!</p> <p><b>Blessed be the name of the LORD!</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>In all this Job (Iyob) did not sin, nor did he charge <b>GOD</b> with wrong!</i></p> <p>JOB ( Iyov ) has just lost all his 10 children and all his vast possessions. The story could have ended here, but the 'process of grief' has a blessing inside of it.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>GOD</b> again takes the initiative on behalf of his friend Iyov, by inviting his adversary to a 2nd meeting. question: has he seen <b>HIS SERVANT</b> Iyov.....satan is livid!</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>GOD</b> adds to the poke, by saying JOB did no wrong, and still has his integrity. <i>you incited ME against Job(Iyov), to destroy him, without cause!</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">so the adversary pulls out his trump card,...Skin for Skin! the thing that <b>GOD</b> had not allowed is now requested....let me touch his bone and his flesh and the human being made out of dust will curse you, guaranteed, to <b>YOUR FACE!</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Behold, JOB is in your hand, but you can not take his life!</i></p> <p><b>Why would GOD allow the suffering?</b> The North American TV gospel has it that if you are not healthy or wealthy , then <b>GOD</b> obviously has not directed <b>HIS BLESSING</b> on you. This only shows we have read the first and last chapter of Job however if we are followers of <b>CHRIST</b>, we must follows <b>HIS</b> example and <b>HIS</b> teaching.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Note <b>JESUS</b> asks us to deny ourselves, and follow him!</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Our answer also comes from JOB's second vote of PRAISE.</p>	Job 1:22	
Shall we indeed accept good from <b>GOD</b> and not adversity?		Job 2: 1
Illustration	Provision for Eddie!	Job 2: 10
<p>Eddie worked for us. He signed a sub-contract for the labour portion. Since I had little on my plate, I chose to strap on my belt and work alongside. It would help speed completion while insuring quality.</p> <p>The job to renovate a downtown Music Store came out of left field. We weren't looking for construction work. The contract was signed, and now it had to happen. I was told it was the lowest bid, and with the best completion date. In the middle of the third week Eddie chose to skip the morning coffee break, as the group of us would head down the street for a coffee shop. I broke early, and caught Eddie reading a small book in the back corner at the job site. I said nothing, but my curiosity killed me. What was in the book that was so important? Then at lunch, Eddie chose to go for a walk instead of eat with all of us. So I went over to check the book. It was a small worn out Bible! He also skipped the afternoon coffee. All day he appeared spaced out!</p> <p>We finished the job 2 weeks later, and on the final day, I had asked Eddie to bring in his invoice. As I was getting my cheque book ready to pay the account, <b>GOD</b> had a little chat with me. "Remember, your contract price was 3 times what you first estimated. "Remember" you asked Ruth what would be a fair price, and she suggested you double the number of your costs and profit, since in a reno job you never know what is behind the walls. So when you wrote up your proposal you tripled the amount?" I wrote Eddie a cheque for 3 times his contract plus expenses.</p> <p>He let out one big hoot! This is the amount I pledged at my church for missions and I have been struggling with <b>GOD</b> in fasting and prayer as to how <b>HE</b> would pay for it!</p> <p>It was a humbling experience, Eddie's interest in others before himself and that <b>GOD</b> used us as a vehicle to provide Eddie with the funds he was asking for!</p>		Job 19: 25
Meditation: from Handel's Messiah	I know that <b>MY REDEEMER</b> lives!	